

THE
BENCH AND BAR
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Austin, Texas
TEXAS.

BY
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"Kemper County Vindicated," "The Bench and Bar of Mississippi."*

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'Tis not in mortals to command success, but
We'll do more, Sempronius, we'll deserve it.

—ADDISON'S CATO.

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JAMES M. ANDERSON.

James Monroe Anderson was born in Lawrence County, Alabama, on the 30th day of July, 1824. His parents were natives of Virginia, and his father was by occupation a merchant. He removed from Alabama to Winchester, Tennessee, in 1827, where the subject of this sketch spent his early youth. At the age of twelve years he engaged in business as a clerk, in order to procure the necessary means for obtaining an education, and having accomplished his object, and thoroughly prepared himself, he entered Cumberland University and graduated at that institution in 1848. He then taught school nearly two years, and a portion of that time instructed the advanced classes in Winchester Academy. While engaged in this vocation he devoted his leisure time to the study of law, under the supervision of Judge Nathan Green, afterwards chief justice of Tennessee, and in the fall of 1849 was admitted to the bar at Winchester, where he commenced his practice.

But his immediate prospects in the mountains of Tennessee were not commensurate with his ambition — the opportunities for the exercise of his genius too uncertain for his aspirations, and, in 1850, he removed to Texas, and located at Rusk, in Cherokee County, where he formed a copartnership in the practice of law with Judge Stockton P. Donley, which continued, with the interruption caused by war, until 1866, when the latter was elevated to the Supreme bench.

Mr. Anderson has always been a staunch Democrat, and was an ardent advocate and supporter of the policy of the Southern States in severing their connection with a government hostile to their interests and constitutional rights. He was a member of the Texas Secession Convention of 1862, and voted emphatically for the measures it adopted; and

when General Banks organized his expedition for the invasion of Texas from the Red River, he entered the Confederate army as a private, and participated in the battles which resulted in the defeat of that general.

After the termination of the war, accommodating himself as far as possible to the exigencies of the issue, he resumed the duties of his profession, and, in 1866, removed to Waco, where he has continued to reside, in the enjoyment of a large and successful practice. In 1873 he was elected a member of the Legislature, and, with this exception, has never permitted the emoluments of office or public honors to allure him from the zealous duties of the bar.

At Waco he has attained additional distinction as a lawyer and eminence as a citizen. He is an excellent judge of law, a discreet and able practitioner, and a kind-hearted, congenial man. He is faithful and thorough in the discharge of his professional duties, and when his views have once been established by exhaustive research and confirmed by a sound judgment, he holds on to his cases with a tenacious grip, and pursues them as long as there is a hook of possibility upon which to hang a thread of hope. These well known attributes establish for him a reliability in difficult cases which draws to his practice many of the most important suits that are brought before the courts of his section.

His social characteristics consist of a serene, even-tempered and patient deportment, which never permits his equanimity to be disturbed by those little adverse currents of circumstance which are so often sources of annoyance and perplexity to the greatest and most philosophical men; and of a spirit of accommodation and concession to the views and feelings of others, which, if more prevalent, would render the world better and happier, and elevate the society of men.